

Auction offers best bet for Lincoln coin

By Roger Boye

Here are the answers to more questions about coins and currency.

Q—We'd like to sell a scarce 1914-D Lincoln penny that we inherited. A friend says we should place the coin on auction to ensure getting a fair price. Is that a good idea, and, if so, how should we go about doing it? What are the risks?

J.T., Oak Forest

A—Most rarities sold at major coin auctions bring the best possible market prices. But firms conducting the sales charge sellers a commission that sometimes is as high as 20 percent of the winning bids.

Also, big auctions are scheduled months in advance to allow time for preparation of catalogues and publicity. You may have a long wait for your money.

Dealers who conduct major sales often advertise in hobby publications, seeking consignments. Check a recent issue of *Coin World* or *Numismatic News*, two weekly newspapers.

Q—My grandfather saved nearly 200 Indian-head pennies. Which dates are valuable?

H.B., Skokie

A—The kingpins include an 1877, which retails for about \$150 if in "good condition" and the 1909-S (for San Francisco), which goes for about \$100. Almost all Indians minted between 1866 and 1878 and in "good condition" bring at least \$10 each on the hobby market.

Q—I own a crisp, uncirculated \$1 silver certificate bill of series 1957A. I know it's not worth much now as a collector's item, but what is the outlook for this bill to go up in price?

C.M., Chicago

A—Bleak.

Q—Our son received a 1985 quarter with a normal heads side and a copper-colored tails side. The design on the back is clear, although weak around the rim. Does he have a great rarity? What happened to the coin?

R.W., Chicago

A—Two catalogues suggest that the quarter would retail for \$25, although some dealers say \$10 to \$15 is more realistic. A layer failed to bond to the copper core before the "slug" entered a coin-making machine.